

Northern Virginia and life-changing services to the children and families being served.

HONORING JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 320, a resolution that honors the life and accomplishments of one of the most prolific and well-respected chroniclers of America's torturous racial odyssey, John Hope Franklin who passed away on March 25, 2009, at the age of 94.

Born in 1915, in Rentiesville, Oklahoma, Dr. Franklin came from a humble and equally tragic background. His grandfather had been a slave, and his family lost everything in the Tulsa race riot of 1921. However, it was his background of having faced racial horrors firsthand that brought his academic work to the forefront and cemented his reputation among academics, politicians and civil rights figures as an inestimable historian.

John Hope Franklin attended Fisk University and received his master's and doctoral degrees in history from Harvard University. Shortly after graduating from Harvard, Dr. Franklin became widely known as a pioneer in the field of African American history. He published his first book in 1943 entitled, *The Free Negro in North Carolina, 1790–1860*.

Dr. Franklin enjoyed an academic career full of highlights, fellowships, research publications, and honorary degrees. In fact, Dr. Franklin would publish another 20 books in his lifetime and his research helped future Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall win the landmark ruling in *Brown vs. Board of Education*. It is these accomplishments that helped pave the way both for other Blacks and for the field of African American studies, which began to blossom on American campuses in the 1960s.

I join President Barack Obama in his insightful observation about the impact of Dr. Franklin's life: "Because of the life John Hope Franklin lived, the public service he rendered, and the scholarship that was the mark of his distinguished career, we all have a richer understanding of who we are as Americans and our journey as a people."

In closing, we are reminded that, in addition to his commitment to academics, Dr. Franklin was a dedicated family man. He was married to Aurelia Whittington, his college sweetheart for nearly 60 years before she passed away in 1999.

To their son, John Whittington Franklin, may the special memories that you created together and the many words of wisdom Dr. Franklin gave you be sources of comfort and strength, now and in the days to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 44TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SELMA TO MONTGOMERY CIVIL RIGHTS MARCHES

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I wish to take a moment to recognize March 20 as the 44th anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery marches. These historic marches had a profound affect on the voting rights of African Americans throughout the Nation. It is only fitting that the brave individuals who endured brutal physical violence, mental anguish, and often public humiliation in order to secure their voting rights be recognized by this body.

From the pulpit of Brown Chapel, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., issued a call to action after numerous attempts to enfranchise the black citizens of Selma came to a halt. Over the next several weeks, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Coalition and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference expanded their operations to register black voters in Selma and the surrounding area. At a voting rights protest on February 18th, Jimmie Lee Jackson was shot while attempting to protect his mother and grandfather. Jackson's death prompted Mr. James Bevels of the SCLC to call for a march from Selma to Montgomery. This demonstration of character and faith took place on March 7, 1965. As the peaceful protestors approached the Edmund Pettus Bridge, they were greeted by the Sheriff Department and their clubs, tear gas and bull whips. We remember this day as Bloody Sunday.

Local photographers and television crews captured the brutality of Bloody Sunday, casting the issue into the national spotlight. Their images of cruelty rallied popular support for the cause of the protestors and set the stage for the second march, which was to occur on March 9th. However, protestors hit a stumbling block, when a restraining order was issued preventing the march. Dr. King led a group of 2500 protestors to the Edmund Pettus Bridge where he held a short prayer; before turning the crowd back, so as to respect the rule of law. It is on March 21, 1965 that we see a successful unimpeded march from Selma to Montgomery Alabama. Under the protection of Federal and State soldiers, FBI agents, and U.S. Marshals, a group of near 8,000 protestors set out from Selma to march for 5 days and 4 nights down Jefferson Davis Highway until they reached the Alabama state capitol. Upon their arrival, the number of protestors swelled to 25,000. This march had a profound impact on public opinion and just 5 months after its conclusion, President Lyndon Johnson signed into law the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

I am confident that there will always be those who boldly defy oppression and rebuke tyranny at all costs. One March day, Dr. Martin Luther King asked, "How long will prejudice blind the visions of men, darken their understanding and, drive bright-eyed wisdom from her sacred throne?" Dr. King answered his question, saying, "... Not long, because the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." It is this spirit that we must

cherish. Those who decided to command their own destiny in Selma, Alabama in March of 1965 embody this spirit, and it is my great honor to commemorate their efforts.

CONGRATULATIONS: KIWANIS CLUB OF GORHAM, MAINE

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Kiwanis Club of Gorham, Maine for acknowledging the courage and sacrifices of the children of Maine's military families through their program entitled "Operation Tribute".

Kiwanis is an organization dedicated to service to children and youth through initiatives intended to improve the quality of life of children in communities around the world. Currently, Kiwanis has over 500,000 members internationally, representing 96 countries with 34 clubs in Maine.

On July 17, 2007, the Kiwanis Club of Gorham, later joined by the Kiwanis Clubs of Maine, launched Operation Holiday Cheer, a program to provide a holiday gift to each participating child of Maine's military families, including, Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Reserves and National Guard. Over 9,000 children in Maine have a parent serving in the military.

In 2007, the Kiwanis acquired, wrapped, and distributed over 8,000 gifts to children in 140 cities and towns throughout the state of Maine. Included with each gift was a handwritten note thanking the child and his or her family which read, "On behalf of the Kiwanis Clubs of Maine and the people of the State of Maine, we would like to offer you this token of our appreciation for your sacrifice. You are the child of a Maine military family and the bravery that you show every day by sharing your parent to help protect our country is being recognized and honored. You should be extremely proud of your service to our country and you should know that we, the Kiwanis and the people of Maine, stand proudly and beside you. We wish you and your family a Happy Holiday Season."

In 2008, the Kiwanis built on the incredible success of Operation Holiday Cheer and expanded the program throughout New England and New York. Their efforts—and once again their success—were astounding. Operation Holiday Cheer raised over \$650,000 and distributed over 23,000 holiday gifts to children of military families.

In January 2009, Operation Holiday Cheer renamed itself "Operation Tribute" to better reflect its mission of providing tribute to the children of military families.

I extend my deepest appreciation to the Kiwanis Clubs of Maine for their thoughtfulness in paying tribute—and bringing cheer—to the lives of thousands of children in Maine, New York and all of New England.